

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PINT, SW
SUBJECT: INTERIM CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNIST WORKER'S PARTY (APK)
ROLF HAGEL

REF: STOCKHOLM 1348

1. IN THE BEGINNING OF MARCH, 1977 ROLF HAGEL, THEN CHAIRMAN OF THE GOTEBOG DISTRICT SWEDISH COMMUNIST PARTY (VPK), LED AN OPEN BREAK WITH THE VPK TO FORM THE PRO-MOSCOW COMMUNIST WORKER'S PARTY (APK). AT THE APK'S FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE MARCH 27, HAGEL WAS CHOSEN AS THE NEW PARTY'S NTERIM CHAAIRMAN. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON HAGEL BELOW IS CULLED FROM PRESS REPORTS.

2. ROLF HAGEL, BORN IN 1934, HAS A LONG HISTORY OF POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT AND HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN SWEDEN AT LEAST SINCE HE WAS 18 YEARS OLD. BORN IN GOTEBOG, HE BEGAN TO WORK AS AN ELECTRICIAN IN THE SHIPYARDS AT THE AGE OF 16. BOTH HIS PARENTS WERE COMMUNISTS, AND HAGEL BEGAN POLITICAL CLUB ACTIVITIES WHILE IN HIS TEENS. FOR A TIME HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF WHAT WAS TO BECOME THE COMMUNIST YOUTH LEAGUE, BUT LATER RESUMED HIS WORK AS AN ELECTRICIAN. HE SOON BECAME A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE LOCAL ELECTRICIANS
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LABOR ORGANIZATION, AND FOR A WHILE SERVED AS CHAIRMAN. IN 1976 HE LOST HIS SEAT ON THE BOARD, AND DECLINED TO RUN IN 1977, WHEN THE COMMUNISTS FAILED TO GET ANY REPRESETNATION IN THE ELECTRICIANS ORGANIZATION.

3. SINCE 1959 HAGEL HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE SWEDISH COMMUNIST PARTY EXECUTIVE BOARD, AND IN 1967 WAS ELECTED

TO THE GOTEBOG CITY COUNCIL, WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL HE
TOOK OVER A SEAT IN THE RIKSDAG AFTER THE SEPTEMBER 1976
ELECTIONS. AT THE 1975 VPK CONGRESS WHICH CHOSE LARS
WERNER TO BE CHAIRMAN, HAGEL WAS WERNER'S MAJOR OPPONENT
AND RECEIVED ONE-THIRD OF THE VOTES, PRIMARILY DUE TO
SUPPORT FROM THE "FLANMAN GROUP," THE PRO-MOSCOW ORTHODOX
FACTION BASED IN THE NORTH.

4. HAGEL HAS A REPUTATION FOR BEING SLOW TO ANGER AND A
GOOD CAMPAIGN SPEAKER. HE HAS ALSO BEEN ACCUSED OF BEING
A "REAL CHAMELEON." HE IS MARRIED AND HAS A 20-YEAR OLD
SON, ROGER, WHO IS CURRENTLY A STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
KIEV. HAGEL NEITHER DRINKS NOR SMOKES, AND LIKE MOST
SWEDES IS INTERESTED IN SPORTS. COMMENTS THAT HIS RATHER
STYLISH MANNER OF DRESS CONTRASTS WITH THAT OF MOST OF HIS
COMRADES ARE DISMISSED WITH HIS REPLY THAT 'IT IS
IRRITATING WHEN PEOPLE PERSUADE THEMSELVES THAT THEY WILL
BE PROLETARIAN JUST BECAUSE THEY DRESS CARELESSLY.' HAGEL
HAS REPORTEDLY MADE SEVERAL 'STUDY TRIPS' TO THE USSR AND PRC.

5. REPORTS FROM HAGEL'S HOME TURF IN GOTEBOG INDICATE
THAT HIS DECISION TO LEAD THE SPLIT IN THE VPK MAY HAVE
RESULTED FROM PERSONAL AS WELL AS IDEOLOGICAL CLASHES, AND
NOTE THAT HE ALMOST CERTAINLY WOULD HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM
HIS OLD POSITION AS VPK DISTRICT CHAIRMAN AT THE GOTEBOG
DISTRICT'S MARCH CONFERENCE. HAGEL PROPOUNDS GREATLY
INCREASED ATTENTION TO THE ORDINARY WORKING CLASS AND ITS
INTERESTS, AND IS MORE PRO-SOVIET THAN THE
SWEDISH COMMUNIST MAINSTREAM.

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SMITH

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Message Attributes

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